

# **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

## **Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

### **December 8, 2014**

Buena Vista, New Castle

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**Call to Order:** Senator Blevins, Chair, called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

**Introductions:** In attendance were the following DVCC members: Senator Blevins, Dana Harrington Conner, Commissioner Coupe, Brendan O'Neill, Representative Barbieri, Secretary Lewis Schiliro, Judge Danberg, Dawn Culp and Margaret Reyes. Also in attendance were Judge Rocanelli (Superior Court), Patricia Dailey-Lewis (DOJ), Matthew Dale (Presenter), Blanche Creech (People's Place), Erica Brown (NCCPD), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Deb Reed (DSP), Maureen Monagle (CJC), Judge Cooper (Family Court), Tara Andrews (Family Court), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Amy Kevis (DSAMH), Abby Fischer (DCADV), Addie Asay (Family Court), Cherelyn Homlish (People's Place), Sophie Namugenyi (JFS), Amy Hughes (Planned Parenthood), Alice Stevens (JFS), and DVCC staff Ellie Torres, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, Pat Kwetkauskie, and Kate Vahey.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2014 Quarterly Meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2014 Quarterly Meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Presentation –** Matthew Dale, senior consultant for the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (and coordinator for Montana's FIRT), briefed the Council on his technical assistance presentation held earlier in the day at Buena Vista for the members of FIRT. Matthew indicated that Montana and Delaware are similar in both their state population, average number of homicides per year and the fact that there is only one Fatal Incident Review Team for the entire state. Matthew identified specifics that the Delaware Team might consider such as possibly reviewing fewer cases in order to review more details about each case and reviewing the make-up of the team. He recommended that the team begin to interview others that had contact with the victim and offender.

#### **Vote from September Presentations:**

**By-Laws:** Proposed changes to the by-laws included amending the number of members constituting a quorum to comply with the statute, listing the current committees, and changes to the reporting on goals set by the council. Motion to approve the revised by-laws was made by Margaret Reyes and seconded by Judge Danberg. The by-laws were unanimously approved.

**Batterers' Intervention Standards Revisions:** Motion to approve the revisions to the standards was made by Judge Danberg and seconded by Margaret Reyes. The standards were unanimously approved.

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**Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair:** Motion to approve Senator Patricia M. Blevins as Chair and Dana Harrington Conner as Vice-Chair was made by Commissioner Coupe and seconded by Margaret Reyes and Secretary Schiliro. Both nominations were unanimously approved.

**Widener Symposium:** Dana Harrington Conner provided an update on the symposium planned for April 17, 2015 at the law school. Save the Date cards for the Symposium will be mailed in January. They have added a VAWA Panel (awaiting confirmation of major speakers). Dana invites anyone interested to be engaged in the process and forward ideas to her.

**VAWA:** Maureen Monagle provided recommendations from the VAWA Implementation Committee. The following votes were approved: the DV Fund and the 2014 STOP Formula Grant recommendations. For the reverted fund vote, a motion was made as follows: *“the \$44,066.60 in Court funds will be deposited with the CJC to improve the court processes regarding domestic violence and sexual assault. Funds will be used to assist the courts and community partners to better resolve disputes more effectively and efficiently, and in consideration of the best interests of the community.”* After a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Senator Blevins recommended a process be put in place to best meet this goal. The DVCC will utilize the Criminal Justice Committee to help support efforts in this planning process.

**Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month:** Pat Kwetkauskie updated the Council on Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) activities. Pat has approached 18 school districts. Five schools in Red Clay have committed to sponsor events along with St George’s High School, Milford High School, and Middletown High School. DVCC will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Instagram Contest along with People’s Place and CHILD, Inc. Contestants will be awarded gift cards to those who place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The high school with the most participants will receive an edible treat sometime in the spring. The TDVAM Proclamation Signing is being planned for either February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, depending on the Governor’s availability. The location and time will be announced along with the date confirmation closer to the event.

**Nomination for Outstanding Community Service Awards:**

Dana Harrington Conner would like to nominate Senator Blevins. Senator Blevins nominated Liane Sorenson. Please submit any other nominations via email to the DVCC. The nominations for the award will be voted on at the next Quarterly Meeting scheduled in March.

**Family Court Enhancement Project Update:** Judge Cooper reported on the Family Court Enhancement Project. Tara Andrews, coordinator, was introduced to the Council. Judge Cooper reported that the project is moving along well. The committee meets again tomorrow and expects to receive a report from the technical assistance providers. The next step would be submitting an implementation plan by January 31st.

**Committee Updates:** Margaret Reyes reported on the Immigration Committee and Judge Danberg reported on the Public Awareness/Education Committee, which will meet on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> in the conference room on LL2.

**DVCC Retreat:** The DVCC Retreat was held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. A summary of the retreat was reviewed along with the vision statement and a sampling of action steps.

**Vision Statement:**

*The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a state agency legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The DVCC brings together all stakeholders including service providers, policy-level officials and community partners to eradicate domestic violence. The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education and an outstanding coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.*

**Announcements & Public Comment:**

Tim Collins, member of the public, made statements to the Council and distributed a handout. (See handout.)

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next two meeting dates are as follows:

Monday, March 2, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Buena Vista – Buck Library

Monday, May 11, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.